

**MOJAVE-SOUTHERN GREAT BASIN  
RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 10, 2000  
PAHRUMP, NEVADA**

Resource Advisory Council (**RAC**) Members Present and Category Represented:

Susan Selby	Environment
Barbara Callihan	Dispersed Recreation
Alan Levinson	Permitted Recreation
Steve Mellington	Public-At-Large
John Hiatt	Wildlife
Jerry Helton	Transportation and ROW
Gary Hollis	Elected Official
Colleen Beck	Archaeology
Robert Maichle	Recreation
Duane Whiting	Mining

**RAC** Members Absent:

Stanley Smith	Academic
Marta Agee	Ranching
Mike Wickersham	State Agency
Maurice Frank-Churchill	Native American

Bureau of Land Management (**BLM**) Representatives Present:

Angie Lara	Las Vegas Associate Field Manager
Gene Kolkman	Ely Field Manager
Craig MacKinnon	Tonopah Field Station Manager
Jo Simpson	Chief, Office of Communications, Nevada State Office
Mike Gates	Rangeland Management Specialist, Tonopah Field Station
Phil Guerrero	Public Affairs Specialist, Las Vegas Field Office
Bill Fisher	Natural Resources Supervisor, Tonopah Field Station
Debra Kolkman	Public Affairs Specialist, Nevada State Office
Eric Luse	Ely Associate Field Manager
Shane DeForest	Ely Field Office Wild Horse & Burro Specialist

Public Attendees:

Dr. Jim Marble, Director, Nye County Planning  
June Emmel  
Ken and Sherrie Grubb  
Shane Serensen-Grubb

*\*A copy of each attachment is listed in the text of, or at the end of these minutes is on file with the official copy of the minutes in the Las Vegas Field Office of the BLM. Persons desiring to view attachments should contact Phillip Guerrero, Las Vegas Field Office, at (702) 647-5046.*  
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The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Susan Selby.

Vice-Chairman Selby lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guerrero handed out a revised agenda to RAC members.

### **UPDATE ON WILDFIRES IN NEVADA**

Jo Simpson, Chief, Office of Communications, Nevada State Office - Last year about 1.6 million acres burned in Nevada, but with that, resources were still available. This year, resources are not available because there is considerable fire activity throughout the western United States. Since resources are stretched, BLM, Nevada has set priorities for fires.

- First and foremost is safety of people and structures.
- Initial attack measures are in place at each field office to keep fires small and contained.
- Priority will be given to protect communities. If a fire is bumping up against an urban interface, that fire will get high priority.
- Wildland fires--Various BLM officials will review the fires for that day and give priority each day based on the natural resources at stake (e.g., threatened and endangered species, wildlife habitat, etc.). Priority will also be given to proximity of fires that occurred last year.

If you want to look up current fire information, you go can on the Internet and pull up the fire information. Go to [www.nv.blm.gov/](http://www.nv.blm.gov/) and look for "Current Fire Information."

There is an interagency effort to fight wildland fires throughout the western United States. These partners are BLM, Forest Service (FS), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), the National Park Service (NPS), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). All these agencies are working together on various fires throughout the state. Fire resources from out-of-state are coordinated by the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) out of Boise, Idaho.

People should report fires as soon as they spot them, so they can be contained as soon as possible. They should not try to put fires out themselves.

Ken Grubb, representing the organization Public Lands, commented that he reported the fire now burning at 5 a.m., and the fire didn't get reported to BLM until 2 p.m. He suggested that all parties should get their act together and make sure they have good communication among one another.

RAC member Gary Hollis commented that the Pahrump area has had three fires so far this year and many residents have assisted in BLM's efforts to put the fires out. Hollis stated that Pahrump firefighters also assisted Elko County in putting out some of its fires. Hollis noted that

the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FS, BLM and town of Pahrump has been signed by everyone but the BLM. Hollis stated that Pahrump residents will do whatever they need to do to protect the town and their individual resources.

Hollis stated that fireworks signs have been posted around the area and they work great, but BLM also needs to shut down camp fires in the county.

Gene Kolkman, Ely Field Manager, stated that BLM is seeing fire behavior that is more normal for lodge pole pine. The fires in Nevada this year are burning very hot which makes them very dangerous. Kolkman stated that every fire to date in the Ely district has had structures at risk. "We have lost some homes and cabins, but thank God, we have not lost any lives." Kolkman said his concern is instances such as the Becky Peak fire where people saw the smoke but didn't leave the area. BLM had to send people in to get these people out of the area. It is very important that people leave an area when they see smoke or fire. The fuel loads this year are high and are burning hot. More than likely, these fires will cause BLM to do rehabilitation work on most of the land where the fires occurred.

Craig MacKinnon, Tonopah Field Station Manager talked about the fire in a canyon near the small community of Peavine. It was on FS land, but BLM had initial attack responsibility. Local firefighters were protecting structures and there was a lot of uncoordinated activities occurring. The Incident Commander (IC) was trying to protect the structures too. Before the IC had gotten briefed on the fire, air tankers were coming to drop slurry. This created a dangerous situation as the people had not been evacuated out of the area. In this situation, there needed to be better communication. MacKinnon believes all parties are working on this issue.

RAC member Barbara Callihan asked if there are special alerts going out on TV and radio stations to alert people about the extreme fire behavior this year? Kolkman answered that they do local education to alert people.

Maichle commented that the hardest thing is to get local papers to get the message out about fire restrictions. In places where we would normally let the fire burn, we are now putting the fires out when they first start.

K. Grubb told the RAC that Channel 41, a local TV station is happy to put public information on the station.

**EASTERN NEVADA RESTORATION PROJECT-** Kolkman described what has occurred through the last several years with habitat in the Ely Field Office. Due to several practices, there has been an increase in the abundance of Pinyon-Juniper (PJ) stands. BLM needs to address these issues so we can have healthy stands, and at the same time, manage fire. Ely Field Office has busted up several areas in Lincoln and White Pine counties, where each site requires a different method of restoration to restore. PJ out competes sagebrush and other vegetation and when this occurs, we lose valuable wildlife habitat.

PJ has value too, but when it gets too thick, it is not good for the land. The canopy it creates sets it up for a catastrophic fire. Now days we have exotic plant species and noxious weeds such as cheatgrass that we have to contend with after a fire. Cheatgrass is a great way to set up an area to burn. If we do nothing, we will be leaving future generations with nothing.

If we do something, the benefit is huge. We need to move into an aggressive plan which includes treating 200,000 acres per year. A public meeting was held in late June and about 80 people attended. Several other meetings have been held around Nevada. Some very good discussions with the public have taken place at these meetings.

There are several ways to treat these areas, one of which is fire (prescribed or managed wildland). The downside to fire is the air quality issue. This summer, Ely was getting calls from Idaho on air quality issues. Kolkman believes this will become a more important issue in the future.

Another way to treat PJ is mechanical treatment such as chaining an area. Or if you want to selectively remove whole trees, the use of a feller buncher is preferred. This machine does not disturb the soil which helps with cultural clearances. Another advantage of this method is it produces a lot of wood biomass. We don't want to become slaves to biomass waste. Several businesses have been looking at producing by-products from this waste. If this happens, it would generate jobs in White Pine and Lincoln counties. The effect would be huge. BLM is trying to work through the various issues to resolve how this project can be accomplished. This program is not short-term—it is long-term. We have a concept paper to pass out. BLM needs to collect issues from the RAC. We need standards on the ecology of the areas, and advice from the RAC. We need your help with public you represent. If we don't get consensus on this project, it won't be sustainable and if we don't tie economic benefits to this project, it won't work.

Kolkman stated that he will try to get on the next RAC agenda to present a more formal presentation. **He asked is if it is possible for two of the RACs to have some sort of sub-committee to facilitate common issues and consistency?**

Vice-Chairman Selby asked Kolkman if BLM was just informally scoping right now? Kolkman answered, yes, BLM has not issued a Notice of Intent. We need to finish surveys, prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and modify land use plans. We hope to issue the Notice Of Intent next year.

The question was asked on how soon a sub-RAC committee would need to be formed? **Kolkman answered that after the next RAC meeting, he hoped members would consider forming the sub-committee.**

John Hiatt, RAC member, asked what the time frame was for receiving comments? Kolkman said the public has until the end of August, but RAC members can make individual comments anytime. **At the next meeting BLM will collect issues from this RAC as a group.**

## **RED ROCK CANYON GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Gene Arnesen, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Las Vegas Field Office, stated he had been working on the Red Rock Canyon General Management Plan. The management plan will be presented to the State Director on August 21. They will get his comments and changes and after that, they will send the draft document off to be printed. The draft will need to be sent to some agencies first, then it will go out for public review. The tentative schedule is as follows:

August 21-State Director review

Mid-September-Document goes to printer, advance copies are sent out

Early October-Draft is sent out for public review

Vice-Chairman Selby inquired whether any further involvement was needed from the RAC at this point? Arnesen stated that most of the changes made to the draft were based on comments received from this RAC and the public. There will be another comment period and protest period, but the official comment period has already taken place.

Vice-Chairman Selby asked which RAC members been involved in the Red Rock Planning process. Members Hiatt and Maichle participated in the process.

Maichle asked Arnesen if BLM is working on a final HMA boundary? Arnesen said he had brought a couple of maps and put the maps up on the front wall. The first map showed the NCA, the HMA and the surrounding boundaries. Changes made were to Alternative 3 which is the Preferred Alternative in the EIS. Arnesen pointed out to RAC members some of the differences: Spring Mountain Ranch was eliminated; at the bottom of the HMA, the boundary will be moved to match the boundary of the Herd Area. Horses have traditionally grazed in certain areas that are not included in the EIS. BLM will also adjust those boundaries.

Maichle commented that he was concerned for the burros that live around Green Monster Mine. He doesn't want them to get harassed by the public. Arnesen stated that BLM will not actually be doing any relocating of burros. They plan to reduce the number of horses to about 6-10 animals and then monitor the area.

Hiatt asked if the population of wild burros in Calico Basin was going to be left alone? Arnesen answered yes. Hiatt also inquired as to the appropriate management level (AML). Arnesen commented that until BLM finishes conducting surveys they will not know what the vegetation status is. Because of the extreme drought conditions a gather was conducted to relieve suffering by horses and burros.

The question was asked as to how long the animals will be left in artificial conditions? Guerrero answered that the adoptable animals will be put up for adoption at the Las Vegas adoption to be held in October, and the older animals will be sent to a sanctuary. Some of the animals will be released back into the area. Most animals gathered are now being held at Oliver Ranch.

RAC member, Alan Levinson, asked if the jennies (female burros) that will be turned back into the area will be north of Spring Mountain Ranch? Arnesen stated that BLM is trying to keep the burros to the north to reduce damage to the vegetation and springs to the south. Some wild horses will be located south of the ranch.

Hiatt asked how many animals will be turned back into the HMA? Arnesen stated that it depends on what BLM, Las Vegas field office sets for AML for that area. He stated that exclosures will occur.

Guerrero explained to the RAC that there had been a serious problem with the burros getting on highway and getting hit by vehicles during the night.

The second map on the wall showed the scenic drive around Red Rock Canyon.

Vice-Chairman Selby asked if the local climbers knew BLM had been working on this plan? Yes. The process has been going very well. They had set up committees to discuss concerns and come up with solutions as the future use of Red Rock has to be by the public who is using the resources.

Arnesen explained the climbing permit process. The maximum number of permits that would be issued will be five. Early access into the area is an issue, as the gate is locked until 7 a.m. Unfortunately, some climbs can take all day. In this case, they need to let people in before the gate opens, so they can be out before dark. They are trying to work out an arrangement that will work for everyone.

**Trails**-BLM had proposed a couple of trails: a bike trail that was dropped from the plan as it would have been too expensive to construct, and a staging areas for equestrians off of Kyle Canyon.

**Roads**-The earlier plan called for certain designated roads to be closed. Now, all unnecessary roads are set for closure, but if some type of special use comes up for a certain road, BLM will reconsider the closure. Hiatt asked if there was a formal deadline for closing the roads? Arnesen stated that there was not as it was going to take a long time to close all roads identified for closure (including dirt roads). Hiatt asked if there was a category where the road remains gated, but not closed. Arnesen stated there may be, he just did not know at this time.

Arnesen drew the RAC's attention to another scenic drive that will be six miles long within the Red Rock Canyon NCA. This drive should be considered in conjunction with mass transit because right now the parking lot is full most of the time and visitor use keeps increasing.. The proposed drive was included in Alternative 3, but was not included in the Proposed Action. A study on mass transit will be done after the BLM is finished with this plan. Then, they will look at all options.

In the LaMadre Mountains WSA, two roads would be closed now and another two roads would be closed at a later date. Even though BLM received numerous comments that the roads should remain open, all roads will be closed unless they are existing roads that have had boundary lines drawn around them to exclude them from the WSA (cherry stemming).

Hollis commented that he was under the impression that roads could not be located in a WSA over 5,000 acres. It was noted that cherry stemming excludes an area from the WSA.

Maichle noted that the road that goes to Deer Pasture and some other roads in the area that hadn't been cherry stemmed were going to be left open. When the LaMadre Mountains WSA bill passes, it is possible that the lower two roads will be excluded. ***Can we count on BLM holding these roads in abeyance for future discussion?***

Arnesen stated that some roads fall within the original boundary, but BLM didn't find it appropriate to leave these roads in that boundary. He explained that BLM looked to see what dirt roads would stay open or be closed. Roads not designated would stay open for administrative purposes or would be closed.

Hollis told BLM to stop designating wilderness areas and locking up people's public lands. He has seen new signs marking new wilderness areas in the last year. BLM representatives responded that no new wilderness areas have been designated. The BLM is marking some of the wilderness areas because of increased traffic in each area.

Maichle explained to Hollis that these are study areas are reported to Congress, and Congress will have to release these areas before they would be open to the public again.

Hiatt asked if BLM was going to rehab the area? Arnesen said BLM would try to rehab at least the first 1/4 mile, if the opportunity is there to have someone come in and do rehab work.

Mellington stated that he was concerned that when this plan comes out there will be options instead of a clear plan, and how does BLM plan to implement these options?

BLM has negotiated an exchange on the south end of Brownstone cliff. They are conducting the exchange so houses don't look over the cliff. Maichle stated that the private land in the Two Toes area should not be developed. Arnesen stated that BLM, Las Vegas Field Office looked at priorities, and that area was not brought up as a priority. Simpson suggested that the Two Toes area could be nominated for purchase under the SNPLMA.

Vice-Chairman Selby asked if there were any other comments or questions?

Vice-Chairman Selby adjourned the meeting for lunch at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

### **SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT**

Guerrero discussed the status of SNPLMA priorities (see handout). He briefly went over the list of appraisals starting with the number 1 priority through the number 11 priority. Cumulative total for proposed purchases is \$24 million. There is currently \$13 million in the fund. Purchase of sensitive lands will be according to the list of priorities, starting with number 1.

Las Vegas has two ongoing exchanges, one being the Lake Las Vegas Exchange. Several properties on the SNPLMA acquisition will be acquired through that exchange (i.e., Casey Ranch, Lockes Ranch, and Tres Piedras).

The statewide RAC meeting will be held October 26-27, at the Casa Blanca in Mesquite and RAC members can actually go look at some of the property proposed for purchase.

Guerrero asked RAC members to take a look at page 2 of the Capitol Improvements Projects. At the top of this list is Kyle Canyon Visitor Center. At the bottom of the list is Dolomite Campground toilets.

Restoration of habitat area is at the Pahrnagut National Wildlife Refuge. For more details on this project, go to [www.nv.blm.gov/](http://www.nv.blm.gov/).

RAC member, Colleen Beck, inquired as to the Oliver Ranch feasibility study. Guerrero explained that The Outside Las Vegas Foundation's executive director Allan O'Neal had contacted them to see if BLM would be interest in putting in an environmental education center for children. O'Neal also wanted to use the facility as a research center, but BLM has another project called the Eastern Mojave Desert Initiative (EMDA) to handle this concept. The EMDA project would be a mini-campus (10-15 acres) that would be used for an environmental education site and a research facility. The concept would be to teach teachers about environmental education, have students assist researchers, and have researchers from all over the world conduct research on specific projects.

Some of the old buildings around the site that are not historic according to BLM's archaeologist will be torn down as they are unsafe.

Hollis stated that he didn't understand the priorities. It appears you are taking land base (tax base) from Nye County and increasing the tax base in Clark County. MacKinnon stated that BLM supports the no net loss of private land. This means that Nye County does not want any more Federal ownership in the county. BLM has already conveyed over 2,000 acres of land in accordance with the Desert Land Entry Act. They have also written a letter to Nye County that they will not have a negative effect on the private land base in the county.

Jerry Helton, RAC member, asked if Nye County signed off on the transfer of Lockes Ranch? MacKinnon answered that they had not because the Nye County Commission approved a Resolution against this purchase. Helton pointed out that if the county has not had anything to do with this process then you cannot find out about economic impact to the area.

Hiatt commented that another point everyone has to keep in mind is that there has to be a willing seller and a willing buyer. It is that landowner's option to keep his land preserved and not have the county tell him that he cannot sell to another party. ***BLM should ensure that there is a zero-net effect, but how can you ensure that without the help of the county?***



Vice-Chairman Selby asked who has the final decision on the purchase of these lands? Guerrero stated that the Secretary of Interior has final approval authority, but all four agencies do have input into the process.

Guerrero explained to the RAC that the Secretary verbally delegated the decision process to the BLM, Nevada State Director with collaboration from the four agencies and local input. It is only verbal right now. The next Secretary could change that delegation.

All three RACs will look at a new acquisition list at the October Tri-RAC meeting. BLM will ask the Tri-RAC to prioritize the list for the 2001 cycle.

Helton stated that the timing of the whole process needs to be accomplished between now and the first of October for proposals and presentations on available lands and improvements. Especially since the process has been restructured. RAC members need to have presentations before the October meeting.

Hollis asked if they sell property in the Las Vegas Valley, can they buy anywhere in the State and then capital improvements go back to Clark County?

Maichle noted that capital improvement funds can be expended for the Desert Wildlife Range, Spring Mountains Recreation area, Lake Mead NRA and Red Rock Canyon NCA.

Helton explained that 85 percent stays with BLM to buy environmentally-sensitive lands and up to 25 percent can be used for capital improvements.

Guerrero asked RAC members to look at the SNPLMA financial statement (see handout). BLM is only required to collect 20 percent on the date of the sale and the rest is due when the sale is final.

This new law (Baca Ranch Bill) allows sale of public land to the highest bidder. There are an additional 125,000 acres that are now available for sale in Clark County.

Kolkman emphasized that rural areas need to be careful with this bill. BLM can spend enormous amounts of money for staff work and the 20 percent they receive back will not suffice to cover expenses. These lands have always been for sale. The drawback has been that the funds have not been available to process these sales.

Simpson pointed out that the BLM supports the sale of property for developing communities. We could be in good bargaining position to say that the land will not bring a good value but we can sell to a local community to benefit that community. Nevada has the most property available for disposal, and BLM sells land elsewhere that has a high value. Kolkman commented that places such as the Ely area would not be competitive with places like Denver or Las Vegas.

Helton asked if the Baca bill has boundaries? It is for the western United States, not just Nevada.

Hiatt pointed out that we need to remember that a lot of these sales will not have water available with them.

Maichle stated that we need to look at the maximum amount of growth in communities under the Baca bill. We need to look at areas where growth could occur and make areas contiguous with proposed growth.

Hollis asked if the BLM, Las Vegas Field Office would re-open its Resource Management Plan (RMP) so Pahrump could re-evaluate lands they would like to see withdrawn around Pahrump.

Lara answered they could not at this time. She said the new list was just a listing the field office put together for nomination. This doesn't mean they have a willing seller. This list includes state-owned land at Red Rock that includes sensitive plant species and a riparian area; Virgin River ACEC; Bunker property on Virgin River; Hughes property which is also on the Virgin River ACEC; and the James River property. At the top of the list is Kyle Canyon and other Red Rock inholdings; Walking Box Ranch; and White Beauty mine. The group is putting together their thoughts on capitol improvement projects.

Vice-Chairman Selby asked if there were any other comments?

Maichle asked if land such as the White Beauty mine would have to be withdrawn from mineral entry?

***Vice-Chairman Selby asked if BLM is submitting nominations, where in the process would the RAC get involved? Do they need to schedule a meeting to provide nominations before the Tri-RAC?***

Simpson stated that during the Tri-RAC they will be given a list. Nominations are due by the end of August. If this RAC meets before the Tri-RAC meeting then BLM would get them the list before October 1. All nominations will be brought before the Tri-RAC. Then the Tri-RAC will comment on each nomination, and based on comments from the RAC, the four agencies will determine priorities.

Vice-Chairman Selby asked if a nomination is on the list, will it be purchased? No. The process is as follows:

1. Receive nomination from anyone
2. Combine nominations
3. Present the nominations to the RACs at the October meeting - prioritize
4. RACs provide advice
5. Working committee gets together and reviews advice from RAC
6. Nominations go out for public comment, RAC can comment again
7. No additional nominations will be accepted.

Maichle reiterated that nominations that do not make it for the next sale, will go back into the bucket for future sales. The ranking is important because based on the ranking, their nominations can go through the first time and not get delayed.

Several members stated that they were concerned with the process, in that the RAC will be handed a list in October and will be expected to come up with recommendations.

Kolkman suggested that the RAC schedule a meeting in late November to make their recommendations. That way, BLM could make sure they captured the RAC's priority recommendations.

Simpson told the RAC she would contact Mike Dwyer, Project Manager of the SNPLMA and get clarification on the whole process.

Maichle said he is making the assumption that the RAC will receive the list at the October meeting, then they will review and give their priority list within two months after the October meeting. ***Can we extend the comment period for 60 days so the RAC can provide their input after review of the nominations?***

Hiatt asked who would write up the descriptions for each property? Simpson answered that the staff from the SNPLMA Project Office are the ones who compile the information.

Vice-Chairman Selby asked if there is a process in place to avoid nomination of a property that does not meet the necessary criteria? Simpson stated that the Project Office verifies whether each property meets the criteria.

Helton stated that he had a public comment from industry on the sale of BLM land around Las Vegas. Parcels that were sold by BLM last year are now showing up for sale at 2 to 3 times the BLM sale price without re-zoning. Appraisers have undervalued BLM property that has commercial use potential and have overvalued land that has residential use potential. BLM needs to work with appraisers to get the price comparable with the market value. Appraisers need to have better qualifications and get the appraisal price more in tune with the market. If BLM does not fix this problem, they will have a problem selling residential parcels at the next auctions.

Guerrero noted the reference to appraisals and said the point is well taken. BLM is planning on meeting with bidders on how BLM can conduct the process better. Everyone needs to remember though that they are constrained by law. BLM uses private appraisers. BLM appreciates the comments from industry.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ken Grubb-Member of Blue Ribbon Coalition (off-road organization) stated that on behalf of the coalition that they don't want to see any road closures on any public lands.

K. Grubb also asked questions for the other groups he represents:

***Questions from People for the USA- Was \$70,000 given to BLM to drill wells for horses in the Johnny HMA? If so, it appears the money disappeared and there are no wells for the horses. Where did the money go? This is a Las Vegas Field Office issue. Lara will look into the matter***

***Question from Public Lands for Nye County. Why did BLM knowing how winds and weather occur, wait so long and wait until the hottest part of the year to gather wild horses and burros?***

K. Grubb stated the group's concern was that there is a unique breed of horses (pintos and paints) around Pahrump which there are not many left and that one was shot.

Kolkman commented that the gathering of horses is a frustration for BLM because we don't have the funds to gather horses when they need to be gathered.

RAC Chairman, Duane Whiting, asked K. Grubb if USA was People for the USA and what they were going to do to combat closure of lands and to prevent withdrawal of public lands? K. Grubb stated they were People for the USA and they participated on the Carpenter Canyon issue and the Jarbridge closure.

Maichle said he was aware of what Blue Ribbon has done nationally and that they are a more sane group. He is surprised that they would have a blanket statement, "No road closures." Maichle knows the Clark County representative has said, "One good road going into an area is better."

Vice-Chairman Selby stated that if there were no more comments, the public comment period was closed. She thank K. Grubb for his comments and his time.

## **RHYOLITE LAND EXCHANGE UPDATE**

MacKinnon told RAC members that the land exchange is proceeding on schedule.

Tonopah Field Station issued a 45-day notice of exchange which will close in mid- September. There are no significant impacts on the exchange. So far, they have received minor comments on access. MacKinnon hopes to exchange deeds sometime in October.

BLM has a historic architect from New Mexico looking at rehabilitation costs for the old depot BLM will acquire.

The National Park Service is going to try to move to Beatty and out of the Furnace Creek area. They are currently negotiating with Nye County for administrative offices in Beatty.

MacKinnon wanted to thank RAC members for sharing their many ideas about grant writing and funding. The next step for BLM is to go to the town of Beatty and see what they want to do. Beta Mu wants to hold a festival next October with the proceeds going towards the rehabilitation of Rhyolite.

MacKinnon would love Beatty residents to come up with ideas for funding and fees. He would like to see lots of local input.

There is a ghost town in Montana that BLM has been managing for years. The Tonopah Field Station is going to use this as a model for Rhyolite.

***Whiting asked MacKinnon if BLM had contacted the townspeople to let them know how much BLM wants their help?*** Whiting stated that during the tour of Rhyolite in May, he suggested to Barrick mine people that they leave their administrative building to the Park Service and develop into a mining museum—both historic and current. Barrick seemed most receptive to the idea. ***RAC needs follow up by BLM who could also enhance the facility.***

*Side note to May tour—Terry Neuman, BLM, is excited about what Barrick is doing for reclamation of the mine site. They are doing far more than what is required. They want to use this site as an example of what can be done.*

Levinson clarified the value of properties in the exchange (i.e., value of 110 acres was \$65,000; value of 560 acres was \$80,000, plus Barrick did some improvements to the depot which evened out the total exchange value.)

K. Grubb wanted to know if the Timbisha received water with the lands they were given? MacKinnon stated that this Legislation had passed the Senate. Lida Junction has 14.7 acre feet of water; 375 acre feet at Scotty's Junction; and 90 acre feet in Death Valley. Water is being conveyed with the land, except with the Scotty's Junction tract. That will be developed slowly.

Whiting asked MacKinnon if he needed anything else from the RAC for Rhyolite? No. He believes they had a very good discussion at the May RAC meeting.

Vice-Chairman Selby adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

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RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 11, 2000  
PAHRUMP, NEVADA**

Resource Advisory Council (**RAC**) Members Present and Category Represented:

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Public Attendees:

None.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Duane Whiting at 8:10 a.m.

Chairman Whiting welcomed everyone to the RAC meeting.

Chairman Whiting received a letter from Senator Reid about wild horse and burro management in Nevada.

Jerry Helton, RAC member, also presented a letter from the Northwest RAC endorsing redistribution of funding for wild horses and burros in Nevada. They urged Reid to remove excess wild horses and burros from rangelands in Nevada. Member John Hiatt told other RAC members he had a discussion with Reid's staff. Reid's frustration is with the fact that the money allocated to wild horses and burros doesn't get spent for wild horses and burros in Nevada.

Chairman Whiting received a letter from Henri Bisson, BLM Headquarters, Assistant Director of Renewable Resources and Planning on the Caliente RMP protest. The RAC's comments were discounted for a number of reasons, one being that the comments did not represent a full RAC body. All but one comment was rejected because the RAC did not provide any counter proposals.

The only comment accepted was the lack of data because of methodology. Helton suggested that the RAC send a letter back to BLM stating that BLM's own methodology shows there has been a recovery.

Chairman Whiting explained to the RAC that they cannot appeal Bisson's decision. The Assistant Director's letter says they can appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). He asked Gene Kolkman, Ely Field Manager, to explain the process. Kolkman explained that when a species is listed as threatened or endangered, the public land manager is in the same situation as the private landowner. Private lands are consulted through Section 10; public lands through Section 7. The plan BLM did is only a habitat conservation plan. Federal agencies have the same concerns as private landowners. BLM does not list a species, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lists T&E species. The basis of commenting on the RMP is that BLM has illegally done something.

If the plan is overturned Lincoln County will have land disposals, mineral leases, and grazing will be closed. His frustration lies in the fact that he believes BLM developed a pro-active plan. The RACs concerns should more appropriately be taken up with the FWS.

Hiatt commented that a new method for surveying tortoises has been developed. It is an expensive method, but using tortoises that are marked with a radio transmitter are used to determine the reliability of transect counts. Phil Medica will be in charge of gathering data for the four states. The Department of Defense is providing most of the money for this data gathering process.

The question was asked as to where the Clark County habitat money is going? The answer was that it is going into multi-species habitat conservation.

Gary Hollis, RAC member, asked if funds collected from Nye County are going back into Clark County funds? Dr. Jim Marble, Director of Nye County Planning answered yes. Developers pay \$609 per acre to the fund.

Kolkman stated that Clark County holds the monies when other Nevada counties don't have a conservation habitat plan. Lincoln and Nye counties pay into this fund. Helton made the comment that counties need to track their money so they know how much they pay into the fund. Possibly, the lands already reserved and the funds collected by other counties including Clark County would be adequate to preserve the species.

Chairman Whiting also asked what the status of the town's (Caliente) protest was? Kolkman answered that they received the same letter the RAC received. Chairman Whiting will contact Dan Frehner of the Lincoln County Commissioners to see where the commission stands with the issue and their protest. BLM is working on a Record of Decision.

Chairman Whiting asked Kolkman what they could appeal? Kolkman answered that when BLM gets ready to do land sales, they can appeal.

Chairman Whiting reiterated that the RAC has an issue with methodology used. Kolkman answered that is an issue you should take up with the FWS. The listing of the tortoise is outside the purview of the BLM's plan.

Helton pointed out that the RAC did not agree with the recovery part of the plan. The RAC disagrees with the validity of how the numbers were done. There's a flaw in the plan--you have no solution. The plan does not establish when recovery will be reached. The Resource Management Plan does not say when recovery will be reached.

Kolkman answered that the BLM plan is not a recovery plan, it is a management plan on how BLM will deal with the listing. BLM has one directive--protect the tortoise. BLM has a huge piece of property that it has to manage, just like a landowner.

Stanley Smith, RAC member, commented that a large part of problem is that FWS did not do their homework. He was against protesting the RMP in the beginning. Agencies have to do what they can do. The RAC did not do a thorough analyses of the counting method.

Kolkman pointed out that if the BLM plan had locked into the old inventory method, they would not have been able to implement this new method.

Chairman Whiting commented that they needed to wrap up on this issue. Wickersham is not here to give his views and Chairman Whiting would like to get his input before they make a decision.

Helton commented that he believes people who will be impacted by their protest need to understand the repercussions. BLM's land-use actions are still pro-development. The RAC can oppose the plan



and delay any development. As a Board they would be irresponsible to delay such development without consulting and getting the support of the impacted county.

Kolkman stated that the plan closed grazing permits that would have been closed anyway. The plan also opens allotments that are now closed. It opens up 17,000 acres for disposal that are in high demand. They do withdraw some minerals, but they also open up some land to mineral development.

Chairman Whiting suggested the RAC let the protest sit until they have a chance to look at a the Record of Decision (ROD). Kolkman pointed out the ROD can be litigated and each process can be appealed.

**SNPLMA Nominations** –(Clarification of process) Jo Simpson, Chief, Office of Communications, Nevada State Office, referred RAC members to the handout. The first group of criteria is minimum criteria, while the second group is the ranking criteria.

Lands acquisitions- This nomination process is for the 2001-2002 expenditures. After next May or whenever the first list is exhausted, BLM needs a new list to start working.

The working committee is comprised of the four agencies, a county representative, and a state representative, Pam Wilcox. ***Guerrero–Get current copy of Implementation Plan.*** All nominations go to the working committee where they will go through and qualify as far as minimum criteria. Then the staff will prepare the package for public comment. Public comment period begins before the October Tri-RAC meeting. The RAC's comments are part of the public comment process. They will have the package before the Tri-RAC meeting and can ask questions about properties and give BLM their comments. The working group meets again and will apply the ranking criteria (point values) to the properties. The list is compiled based on a point value system. This list is sent out for public comment (second comment period). Once comments are received, the list goes to the Executive Committee which submits recommendations to the Secretary of Interior who makes the decision using delegated authority.

Capitol Improvements–Nominations come in and then go to the working group that develops the package. The package only goes to this RAC to consider because they apply only to Clark County properties. Once this RAC has reviewed and provided input, the working group puts together the package for public comment. After public comment, it goes to the Executive Committee. Parks, trails and natural areas can be part of capitol improvements nominations. Chairman Whiting thanked Simpson for the brief presentation. It helped tremendously.

**RAC Members Leaving.** Simpson noted that this would most likely be the last meeting for some of the RAC members as their terms have expired. On behalf of State Director Abbey, she thanked outgoing members for their participation on this RAC. She also told these members that BLM hopes they will stay involved with the RAC as citizens because their input is valuable.

Chairman Whiting stated he has greatly enjoyed working with everyone and the fact that members and BLM can work together to resolve issues. He wishes the RAC continued success.

Bob Maichle, RAC member, also echoed Chairman Whiting's sentiments. If the cultural subcommittee continues to meet, he serves notice he would like to continue to be involved.

RAC member, Alan Levinson, expressed the same sentiments as Chairman Whiting and Maichle.

Phil Guerrero, Public Affairs Officer, Las Vegas Field Office, stated that BLM is going to miss some great contributors and some great friends.

**Federal Partners Implementation Plan** - Helton asked if the Federal Partners Implementation Plan had been adopted? Guerrero answered no. Helton wanted to know if there is going to be continued input whether this is a good plan or not? Guerrero believes so. It is going to be a revolving process because from every sale, they learn a little bit more. BLM has been hearing comments from the public as we go through each process.

#### **PAHRUMP ISSUES: NEW LANDFILL PROPOSAL**

Hollis told RAC members that the town of Pahrump believes the government is taking too long to make a decision. We have a landfill that sits northeast of Pahrump and this landfill is full. We would have to buy 40 acres of expensive land that would only last for two years before it was full. In 1988, the County Commission gave Hollis the task of finding a suitable landfill site. Hollis concentrated his search to the north where he eventually chose four sections. The area is 160 acres and would last 25 years based on projected growth in Pahrump. Helton asked Hollis if the County has been working with BLM? Hollis said no, the County had dropped the ball. Hiatt asked if the County has submitted any application to BLM? No. This sight was away from water, and the mountains would block the landfill. No private land was located around this proposed site. Hollis suggested that the RAC could send some recommendations to BLM's, Nevada State Director and suggest how they should treat local government in acquiring land for a landfill site. Hollis pointed out that 75 tons of waste per day is generated in Pahrump. They don't have ten years to wait for a new site. Landowners are already assessed \$18 per parcel for landfill. Pahrump's site is close to the landfill in Beatty so this site could be a transfer station.

Hollis believes the selected area is ideal notwithstanding tests that would be conducted. People don't want to spend money on tests if the land would be too expensive to purchase. Residents believe that taxpayers pay enough to the Federal government, and they shouldn't have to go through a long drawn out process.

Kolkman interjected that past practice of the BLM was to issue a Recreation and Public Purpose lease for landfills. Now, the land is sold to the county.

Maichle asked if the land was identified for disposal? No.

Helton asked if the BLM can dispose of land without doing a plan amendment. Angie Lara, Assistant Field Manager, Las Vegas Field Office, answered that BLM, Las Vegas Field Office is not doing any plan amendments at this time.

Hiatt asked where the sites that were originally identified for land disposal were located? Hollis answered they were located around the town of Pahrump and would affect hydrology in the area. In the beginning, 16,000 acres was identified for disposal; now it is just 9,000 acres.

Helton asked Hollis if the town was looking at going to Congress to get a mandate? Are you looking at the RAC for a recommendation to send to the delegation to ask them for their help? Hollis stated they wanted a method to fast-track projects like this one so that the local government can get on with their business.

Kolkman pointed out to Hollis that to fast track would mean that other projects important to other constituents would drop to a lower priority.

Hiatt asked Hollis why the town didn't convey their thoughts to BLM about the identified area in 1988? Hollis answered because the County dropped the ball. Officials in office now didn't even know of the original site. This site is right off of the highway.

Maichle commented that this issue should be put back on local government. When those working on the RMP were setting aside areas for disposal they set aside huge chunks of land. If this had been conveyed in the planning process, this land would have been set aside.

Lara recommended Hollis contact Rex Wells from the BLM Las Vegas Field Office, as he can get them set on the right process.

### **AMARGOSA TOAD UPDATE**

Bill Fisher, Natural Resources Supervisor, Tonopah Field Station, handed out information to the RAC as a follow up to the field trip in May. It does not include this year's data. They will be done compiling that data in about October. A town meeting was held July 13. Marble came for the presentation. They had 32 people sign in to have their name put on a mailing list and about another 25 didn't sign in.

Two weeks' earlier the town established an Advisory Council for the town board. The Advisory Council had their first meeting on July 18. BLM committed to bringing their staff to help the Council when they get organized.

According to the data collected, they showed a toad population of 4,700 in 1997. Their data now indicates that there may be as many as 30,000 toads. He emphasized to the RAC that they were going to lose a lot of toads this year because of the drought. The town needs help to get rid of the tamarisk in the creek, which is very labor intensive. The high school is starting an environmental program this

year to help control the tamarisk. The town is looking into the possibility of using the Nevada Department of Forestry crew. They will use the cut-stump herbicide application process to help control the tamarisk. BLM will request that NDF supply appropriate trees to replace the riparian habitat.

Fisher, in answer to a question posed, doesn't believe the Biodiversity Legal Foundation out of Boulder will have any more grounds to proceed with listing of the toad.

Smith asked if the 4,000 and 30,000 figures were based on capture/recapture rate? Fisher answered that BLM believes it conducted a more thorough investigation this year, so those numbers should be more accurate. They have gotten smarter and know how to go about looking for and capturing the toad.

Hollis asked if this meant that an ACEC would not be designated? Fisher commented that at this time the BLM will turn the nomination over to the county. Fisher stressed that just because an area is nominated as an ACEC, it doesn't lock people out.

Hollis stated that people who nominated the toad for listing should be penalized. He commented that we cannot just keep listing all species that are becoming extinct. Government is making too many regulations and the rural way of live is being threatened.

Smith noted that the law won't allow any species to go extinct.

Maichle stated that an ACEC is not all wrong. Hiatt stated that an ACEC is an area that is special. It may not be related to an animal at all. He pointed out that a petroglyph area can be an ACEC. He believes Hollis' fears are misplaced.

Barbara Callihan, RAC member, commented that she was seeing more positive than negative benefit with listing of the toad. It won't do any good for people to stick their head in the sand. We need entities working together. We cannot just say we want the Federal government to get out of our life. BLM is openly asking people what they want.

Craig MacKinnon, Tonopah Field Station Manager, thanked Callihan for her comments. BLM, Tonopah Field Station has really made a conserved effort to bring landowners into the process and to let them develop ideas. BLM has to go forward and make a long range plan, but this plan could help us keep the FWS from listing the toad.

Hollis commented that the listing of the toad caused a lot of friction and made life miserable for a lot of people in the area.

MacKinnon said he still believes the best option is for all parties to link up and develop a plan together. We know we have periods when the count will be low because the creek washes tremendously but at least we can get our act together.

Chairman Whiting inquired whether this new data would discount other groups information? Fisher answered yes, the FWS has been working with BLM in obtaining this data.

Hiatt stated that we are just learning information about the toad, so it doesn't necessarily mean the group lied, they just made an error.

Smith agreed and said the person that initially counted the toad was from Nevada. It was just sloppy science, but people have to understand that science costs money and that there is a process.

Chairman Whiting commented that it appears the 30,000 count is more valid. BLM's work with local residents is excellent. Is an ACEC definitely decided for this area? Fisher replied no. If everyone works together, it won't need designation.

Chairman Whiting temporarily recessed the meeting at 10:05 a.m. for a break. Meeting resumed at 10:35 a.m.

### **TIMBISHA ISSUE**

Pauline Estevez, Timbisha Tribal Chairperson was present. She brought handouts for all RAC members.

MacKinnon made a presentation to the RAC. He indicated all the information he was presenting was on their handout sheet.

**Draft LEIS**--Three extensions were given to the comment period for the LEIS. Ninety-five to ninety-eight percent of the comments received concerned California.

Centennial tract--There was a lot of concern about water. BLM published a technical report which stated that the watershed they are drilling in, is not the same water the town of Darwin is using. Water is being conveyed with all tracts.

Tribe is in critical junction of timing and they are looking for any type of support they can get. Decisions they are going to have to make is the schedule for the EIS. The Department of the Interior (DOI) commitment is that BLM will do a Final EIS and will complete the legislative process.

Hiatt inquired whether the water at Scotty's Junction ran at 375 acre feet. He stated the Park Service believes this is excessive and that it should be 200 acre feet.

MacKinnon--Tribe agreed to monitor water over a period of time. The National Park Service wants to also monitor the water. The Park Service wants to put in some monitoring wells in areas before legislation starts. MacKinnon asked Estavez if she would like to say anything.

Estavez said the packet of information is self explanatory. She just came to give an update as to what they are doing. The Tribe is at a critical stage right now. Senate bill went to the House so it is

important people talk to Lewis and Gibbons. Estavez thought this meeting was more important than going to Lone Pine for another hearing.

MacKinnon commented that there has been a lot of confusion on the proposal. There has been talk of cooperative agreements in the park. There will not be co-management by the Tribe and the Park Service. There is authority through FLPMA that is already in place that will allow the tribe to conduct studies they want to conduct.

Hollis asked Marble what the County's stand was on this matter. Marble stated that a Resolution has been drafted that would support the plan. The town board would also support the plan.

MacKinnon has seen the draft resolution. He does not see any major problems. He stated that during the public comment in town board meetings, people have supported the Timbisha.

MacKinnon said that in association with the 2,800 acres, the tribe would try to buy Jack Goates property in Esmeralda County. Colleen Beck, RAC member, asked if the property has to be conveyed as one property? Yes, Jack would like to sell the property as one. If not, he wants to convey certain parcels first. MacKinnon's job is to disclose everything right now. Beck stated her concerns was that there are cultural sites within close proximity to this property.

Helton asked if this was a trade or swap? MacKinnon said no, this would be a direct conveyance. The price right now is anywhere from \$7-20 million. Goates has a lot of associated water rights on his private land. He also has considerable water rights on public lands.

In the packet of information Estavez handed out, there is a letter to the Secretary of Interior for the RAC to consider signing. It is a Letter of Support for the Timbisha (see packet of info).

The Timbisha are trying to get money to hold the adjacent land so Goates won't sell it. Trust for Public Lands is trying to help the Tribe. Margaret Edington, from Trust for Public Lands, along with tribal members will meet with the landowner.

The Duke Solar Corporation is conducting studies on solar radiation at Scotty's Junction and they are talking with the Tribe about their studies.

MacKinnon told RAC members that the area near Lida needs to be restored and cleaned up due to mining activities from years past and ongoing activities by individuals.

Maichle asked whether they had a quorum? If there is a quorum, he believes the RAC should sign and send the letter. All members believe it should be sent from the RAC. (*A quorum was not present.*) Maichle voted that RAC members sign as individuals and send the letter. He suggested they could state, "We the members listed below at the August 11 RAC meeting submit this unanimous letter of support for S. 2102, The Timbisha Shoshone Homeland Act."

The next paragraph could say "The members." Copies should be sent to the following people:

Pauline Estevez

Jim Gibbons

Senator Reid

Shelley Berkley

Senator Bryan

*(Helton typed the letter and RAC members present signed as individuals. All RAC members received a copy of the letter.)*

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Last minute changes were received from Hiatt. Chairman Whiting has reviewed and concurs with the suggested changes. Chairman Whiting stated he was ready to sign approved minutes with the minor corrections.

**JANUARY 2000** - Approved with minor corrections made by Hiatt.

**MARCH 2000** - Approved with minor corrections submitted by Hiatt.

**MAY 2000** - page 15 - strike paragraph five and six. Approved with corrections made by Hiatt and Maichle. *(Send to Selby to sign.)*

## **FIELD MANAGERS' UPDATES:**

### **ELY FIELD OFFICE**

Kolkman wanted the RAC to be aware that besides all the fire activities, the Ely district is experiencing a drought. The field office is using the same drought procedures it used in 1996. Besides fire, drought is their number one priority in the district. Because of present conditions, they will start closing some areas to grazing. This means they will remove livestock and horses.

Kolkman wanted to bring members' attention to a remarkable piece of legislation that affects land around Mesquite. It is Senate Bill 1331. The original concept was to transfer land directly to Lincoln County to sell. The Bill now directs BLM to sell the lands competitively with 5 percent of the proceeds going to the State education fund, 10 percent to Lincoln County school district, and 85 percent goes back to the BLM. Language was added to the bill that states that funds can be used for cultural resource management and protection. This gives the BLM a tremendous opportunity to restore sites in both Lincoln and White Pine counties.

Eric Luse, Assistant Field Manager, Ely Field Office, briefed members on the Eastern Nevada Restoration Project. **Kolkman would like to get on the next agenda and give a more formal presentation to the RAC on the Restoration Project. He would need about 1 ½ hours because Robin Tausch from the University of Nevada, Reno, will give a presentation.**

Hiatt said he had a question about water resources and S. 1331. A statement needs to be included in the legislation that this will affect community resources, and there may not be any water available for future developments. Hiatt stated that the water issue needs to be the top issue addressed because of declining water resources in the west. Ground water is not going to be a sustaining factor for developing communities.

Kolkman explained to Hiatt that the direct affect to water is considered by the State Engineer, so this concern needs to be addressed by the State Engineer. Hiatt commented that when everyone takes a stance that it is "not my responsibility," then nobody does anything about it.

### **BATTLE MOUNTAIN FIELD OFFICE**

MacKinnon remarked that the Nevada 2000 off-highway vehicle (OHV) race went through all the districts. It certainly was well received in the Tonopah area.

The dedication of the Gold Field Bike Trail went very well.

Two Mars rovers (Fido and Canine) were tested in the Lunar Crater area by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The rovers were run by remote control from California. Three high schools came out to watch the rovers: Beatty, Austin and Ely. They let the students run the controls over the internet. The rovers were about 4 feet long x 2 ½ feet wide and about 2 feet high. MacKinnon said that Houston Space Center announced last night that "Fido and Canine" are both going in tandem on the next mission. Each rover costs \$700 million to build and operate.

An Air Race Association wants to set up 7-10 pylons, 60 feet high and made of fiberglass, around the Tonopah airport and have air races next year. They want BLM to close off public lands around the airport so they can set up stands, etc. The association needs to do considerable work with the Air Force and other agencies before they can have air races. The association would like to move the races from Reno to Tonopah.

Renewable resources management issues-Tonopah is going to follow Ely's policy on drought. The staff is watching HMAs because there are no water sources for the horses, but the forage is holding up so far.

Due to all the fires going on in the Western United States and the lack of fire resources, he is keeping six additional people in the office to help fight fires in case any occur.

On June 8, a decision was issued cancelling all grazing permits attached to the base properties of the Yomba Shoshone Tribe. The Yomba are not on the allotment now, but they will return in November. MacKinnon has been directed by the State Director to give the Yomba until the end of August to make a concerted effort to solve the trespass issue. Mr. Lubin, the Yomba's attorney stated they will make a settlement offer.



Yomba protested MacKinnon's initial decision. The Battle Mountain Field Manager has directed MacKinnon to write a final decision in September and bring this to closure.

Yomba took this issue to the United Nations, along with a lot of other broad issues, including the Treaty of Ruby Valley of 1863.

In September, BLM will finalize their decision and go forward.

### **LAS VEGAS FIELD OFFICE**

Lara stated they have proposed the following capitol improvements for the SNPLMA monies. These improvements include:

Displays at visitors center at Red Rock Canyon

Red Springs at Red Rock

Improvements at Red Rock HMA-wells and cattle guards

Build a ranger station at Kyle Canyon

Rainbow Gardens ACEC

Bitter Springs--fence

Lone Mountain--community pit

Gold Butte-build a field station

Las Vegas Field Office priorities for work are:

- Red Rock

- Move to new office

- Sunrise Landfill

- Nellis Plan

- Workforce planning

- Abandoned mine lands

- Dust

- SNPLMA

- Land exchanges, acquisitions, and sales (this includes about 40 tasks they have to conduct)

There will be an emergency wild horse gather on Nellis Air Force on August 17-19.

Hiatt asked about the project for wells in the Red Rock area. How will the wells be powered? Lara stated that they were conducting studies to see what would be the best method. Hydrologists are doing the studies to see where the best area would be. If they put it on the south side of Highway 160 they would have to bring power from several miles and that expense gets extremely high. They have also discussed solar and wind power.

Maichle pointed out Arnesen in his talk yesterday stated that the burro herd wouldn't be relocated. If you put wells in on the south side, you are moving the herd. Lara said no, horses are already near that location.

Guerrero added that the wells would be outside of the Red Rock boundary, but within the HMA.

Maichle expressed his concern that BLM doesn't acknowledge the herd of burros near Mexican Springs. He is concerned the burros will get lost in the shuffle of protecting horses. Where there is over lap, there is conflict. He will stay on top of this.

Guerrero commented the project should be completed in October. Maichle is welcome to come and talk to BLM.

Maichle commented that there is a problem developing which applies to Tonopah and Ely. They have allowed major race events by major races and local home-grown races. In an effort to recover costs from larger races, BLM is instituting a policy of cost recovery for events over 50 people. Can managers look into some way of helping local clubs? Kolkman said he could work out an "in kind cost recovery" but the problem is that people are not agreeing to the guidelines. If clubs would get together and start policing events themselves, that would help BLM a lot. If these types of issues continue, they will have to decide if they should let these events continue.

Maichle said he fully understands BLM's need for cost recovery. The Tonopah office has done an admirable job of working with clubs. He is concerned that BLM is looking at hours spent on project and not looking at the good it does the community. Kolkman commented that he had a lot of give on his side as long as there is give on the other side. Kolkman said that now is a good time for self-policing. It is the larger, more commercial events that are causing problems.

## **NOXIOUS WEEDS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

Maichle stated he reviewed the guidance set by BLM, and he is not sure the RAC needs to develop additional guidelines. Maybe a statement to the effect that "Public land should be free of invasive plants and weeds."

Maichle quickly read what he suggested for new guidelines:

- *While seeking prevention, promote the rapid detection and eradication of smaller infestations of invasive plants and noxious weeds.*
- *Stop the spread of large infestations of invasive plants and noxious weeds, develop plans for abatement and restoration of larger infestations.*
- *Seek cooperative agreements, interagency cooperation and proactive response for all State, County, local and private concerns.*

- *The prevention of invasive plants and noxious weeds should be addressed in all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) actions, allotment evaluations, special use permits, habitat management plans, plans of operations, and contractual activities on public lands.*
- *Where risk exists, require the use of weed-free seed. hay, mulches and fertilizer.*
- *Where appropriate, manage allotments and herd management areas to promote perennial native species and minimize the creation of disturbed soils.*
- *Encourage invasive plant and weed identification through education of field personal, public information, and an active interagency cooperative approach*

Maichle commented that everyone should have their own little weed book when they go out in the field.

He believes that everything the RAC needs is in the BLM guidance and has already been implemented.

Kolkman stated that BLM has a statewide policy with the State of Nevada and they can take this wording and add it to the policy guidelines.

Kolkman suggested these guidelines be included in both the Great Basin Restoration Initiative and Eastern Nevada Restoration Initiative plans.

Chairman Whiting adjourned meeting at 12:45 p.m.

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\*\*RAC members sat in on an OHV public meeting. Members requested OHV comments be included in the official RAC minutes.

DATE:  
December 15, 2000

APPROVED:  
Duane Whiting, Chairman  
Mojave-Southern Great Basin  
Resource Advisory Council

DATE:  
January 25, 2001

APPROVED:  
Susan Selby, Vice-Chairman  
Mojave-Southern Great Basin  
Resource Advisory Council

Minutes provided by Debra Kolkman, Office of Communications  
BLM Nevada State Office

Attachments:

- 1 - Nevada Priorities (Fire)
- 2 - BLM News Release No. 2000-70
- 3 - BLM News Release No. 2000-74
- 4 - Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Update
- 5 - BLM News Release No. 2000-61
- 6 - SNPLMA Approved List of Properties for Purchase
- 7 - SNPLMA Financial Update
- 8 - Section map and Assessor Plat Map of sections 16, 17, 20, 21, T. 19S, R52E., Nye County
- 9 - Outline of Land Acquisition Criteria and Flow Chart
- 10 - BLM News Release No. 2000-62
- 11 - Las Vegas Review Journal Article
- 12 - Amargosa Toad Update
- 13 - Copy of Letter Dated August 11, 2000, to Bruce Babbitt
- 14 - Ely Field Manager's Update (3 handouts)
- 15 - Materials from OHV Public Meeting on August 10, 2000 (5 handouts)

OHV Public Meeting  
August 10  
in Pahrump

**Comments**

- Involve all stakeholders
- All planning needs to be dynamic
- Change “motorized” to “mechanized”
- Be flexible enough to change with the times
- Conflict of users; be polite
- Three percent of users cause 95 percent of the problems
- Don’t close road without consulting with local government
- Public doesn’t get a chance to digest plans before BLM announces another plan—not just for OHV
- Map all RS 2477 roads first
- Need more trash cans at camp sites
- Increase litter fines
- Educate children for responsible use
- Consideration for elderly and disable access
- Make those who litter clean up the mess
- Generate PSAs concerning OHV use
- Work with advertisers for responsible use
- Encourage folks to take out more than they bring in with them—trash!